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jects are mostly restorations of Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, Mesozoic, Tertiary and Quaternary fossil plants and animals. While the series is designed for popular audiences, they will be found useful in colleges and high schools.

— Edward Wethered, F. G. S., of Hillylands, Weston Park, Bath, England, has become sub-editor of the *Geological Record*, for America, and he asks the coöperation of all geologists by sending to his address all pamphlets or reports, connected directly or indirectly with the geology of this country. His connections will commence with the volume for 1879, and he says that a great effort will be made to bring it up to the present time.

— Dr. John W. Draper, the eminent scientist, and author of *Human Physiology*, a *History of the Intellectual Development of Europe*, the *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science*, numerous memoirs on chemical and physical subjects, and a *History of the American Civil War*, died at Hastings-on-the-Hudson, Jan. 4, aged 71. He was born in England, May 5, 1811.

— Professor Arch. Geikie, Director of the Geological Survey of Scotland, has just been appointed Director-General of the whole of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, and also Director of the Geological Museum, Jermyn street, London. He will therefore resign his professorship in the University of Edinburgh and make his residence in London.

— Dr. Chr. G. A. Giebel, an eminent geologist and author of a work on bird-lice and other insects, died at Halle, Nov. 14. Professor P. G. Lorentz, a well known German botanist, author of a work on mosses, died at Concepcion, in Uruguay, aged 46.

— Robert Mallet, whose researches on earthquakes have made his name well known, died in London, Nov. 5, aged 71. His *Earthquake Catalogue* was completed, says *Nature*, with the aid of his son, now Professor J. W. Mallet, of Virginia.

— Professor J. E. Hilgard, after a term of service of thirty-four years as assistant, has been appointed Superintendent of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; a most fitting appointment.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Nov. 4.—The announcement of the generous gift of \$20,000 by Charles Crocker, Esq., recorded in the December *NATURALIST*, was made.

A paper by Professor Davidson, on the Transit of Mercury, accompanied with drawings, was then read, and Dr. Robert E. C. Stearns read a paper on "The Botanical Relations of *Physianthus albens*: the structure of its flowers and their peculiarities as an insect trap." He referred to this plant as related to groups which possess various important economical characters, furnishing peculiarly fertile fields for investigators of pharmaceutical and organic chemistry. Dr. Stearns then exhibited many beautiful specimens of these flowers, each one of which had entrapped an

insect or moth of some kind, which it held firmly by the proboscis. They are found in many gardens adjoining San Francisco, are hardy and of rapid growth, having a white, sweet-scented flower suitable for ornamental purposes. It came originally from Buenos Ayres and is popularly called a moth-trap. It is a species of milk-weed. This plant belongs to a group which is related to the ornamental phloxes, the parasitic dodders, one form of which is destructive to our alfalfa, as it winds its fatal thread and strangles the plant by preventing the upward flow of the sap. The bind-weeds are popularly known by the sweet potato, also by jalap, scammony and other medicinal plants. Other related groups include tobacco, mandrake, potatoes, and egg-plant; also the olive, the common lilac and flowering ash. In all plants of this group the sap is milky, acrid and bitter; also contains more or less caoutchouc. The roots are diaphoretic, emetic or cathartic. The inner bark yields very strong and fine fiber. One form is known in Ceylon as the cow plant, and yields a palatable sap, which is used by Cingalese as milk. It is supposed that these plants are fertilized by insects, and the insects are caught by their probosces, between the wings of the anthers while seeking for the nectar. Other insects, such as ants, beetles, etc., are often found in the nectary of these flowers, but not as prisoners. The paper was elaborately illustrated by blackboard drawings.

Dr. Behr and Dr. Gibbons then spoke in further explanation of insect traps, and Dr. Behr read a paper on "The Part Played by Hawk Moths in the Economy of Nature."

Dr. Arthur Krause and Mr. Aurelius Krause, of the Bremen Geographical Society, who have just returned from explorations in Siberia, were present and promised to address the Academy at a future meeting.

Mr. Dieckmann, of Nicolaesky, Amoor river, an entomologist, said tigers were very plenty on the shores of the Okhotsk sea, and were found throughout Siberia with white bears. They have hair five inches long, and are larger than Himalayan tigers. They prey on large herds of reindeer, and remain far north all winter, where snow is four feet deep, never migrating far south. They also eat wild boars. Natives believe the bear to be influenced by the Good God, and tigers by the Evil Spirit. Five natives frequently lasso and catch bears alive, but always kill the tigers. He then described the native ceremonies at a bear feast, some of which were quite laughable.

The matter of some lectures on islands of the South Pacific, by Captain Augustus E. Bruno, was referred to the Council for action, many members desiring to hear from Captain Bruno before his departure East, to lecture before the Peabody Institute, Boston Society of Natural History and other scientific societies.

Mr. Brooks then made some remarks, giving the late news from the *Rodgers*, and illustrated her track with an outline of the Coast of Wrangell Island.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Dec. 12.—The following papers were read: Additional notes on the geology of Staten Island, by Mr. N. L. Britton. Remarks on the Mammoth cave of Kentucky, by Mr. W. Le Conte Stevens.

Dec. 19.—The following papers were read: On a peculiar coal-like transformation of peat, recently discovered at Scranton, Penn., by Professor H. L. Fairchild. On the means of giving accuracy to ventilation by steam, by Professor W. P. Trowbridge.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Dec. 21, 1881.—Mr. John A. Jeffries spoke on the spurs and claws of birds' wings, and Mr. S. H. Scudder on Tertiary fossil spiders, especially those of Florissant.

Jan. 4, 1882.—Professor E. S. Morse compared the shells of New England Kjökkenmöddings with the present forms of the same species, and Miss M. H. Hinckley showed some structural differences between our native tadpoles and their bearing on the classification of the species.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, Dec. 21.—Mr. W. E. Griffis lectured on Corea, the hermit nation.

Jan. 10.—Mr. T. By. Myers read a paper entitled, Our acquisition of French territory west of the Mississippi, in 1803.

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SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

BULLETIN OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE TERRITORIES, Vol. VI, No. 2, Sept. 19, 1881.—Annotated list of the birds of Nevada, by W. J. Hoffman. North American moths, with a preliminary catalogue of species of *Hadena* and *Polia*, by A. R. Grote. The Tertiary lake basin of Florissant, Colorado, by S. H. Scudder. Revision of the genus *Sciurus*, by E. L. Trouessart. Osteology of the North American *Tetraonidæ*, by R. W. Shufeldt. Osteology of *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*, by R. W. Shufeldt. Review of the Rodentia of the Miocene period of North America, by E. D. Cope. On the *Canidæ* of the Loup Fork Epoch, by E. D. Cope. On a crayfish from the Lower Tertiary beds of Western Wyoming, by A. S. Packard, Jr.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, Jan., 1882.—Contributions to meteorology: mean annual rainfall for different countries of the globe, by Elias Loomis (map). Post-glacial joints, by G. K. Gilbert. The connection between the Cretaceous and the recent Echinid faunæ, by A. Agassiz. Classification of the Dinosauria, by O. C. Marsh.

GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, Dec., 1881.—Contributions to fossil Crustacea, by H. Woodward.

JENAISCHE ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR NATURWISSENSCHAFT, Nov. 25.—Free-cell formation in the embryo-sack of Angiosperms, by F. Soltwedel. On the so-called compass-plant, by E. Stahl. Sketch of a system of Radiolaria based on a study of the *Challenger* Radiolaria, by E. Haeckel.